

Amendments of the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified patent application:

Listing of Claims

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently amended) Apparatus for relieving discomfort caused by swollen tissue ailments comprising:

~~at least one~~ a strip of material having first and second ends, wherein:

said strip of material is crescent shaped,

said strip of material having one side that includes an adhesive applied at least to said first and second ends, and

said strip and said adhesive, when applied to a person's body, acting to separate said swollen tissue from non-swollen tissue.

14. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13, ~~wherein said at least one strip of material comprises~~ further comprising:

~~a first strip of material having third and fourth ends, said first and third ends being the same end,~~
~~and~~

~~a second strip of material having fifth and sixth ends, said second and fifth ends being the same end~~

a second strip of material having third and fourth ends, wherein said second strip of material is crescent shaped; and

said second strip of material having a side that includes said adhesive applied at least to said third and fourth ends, said second strip and said adhesive, when applied to said person's body, acting to separate said swollen tissue from said non-swollen tissue.

15. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said adhesive is absent from a portion of said ~~first~~ second strip of material between said third and fourth ends.

16-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said adhesive is absent from a portion of said strip of material between said first and second ends.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said ~~first~~ strip of material and ~~second strips~~ said second strip of material are each pre-formed pieces of material configured such that, when applied to a person's body, they separate the buttocks to relieve discomfort caused by hemorrhoids.

22-26. (Canceled)

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said being applied to said person's body comprises:

said first and second ends being respectively applied to said person's buttock and hip, wherein said buttock and said hip are on the same side of said person's body.

28. (New) A method of relieving discomfort caused by swollen tissue ailments comprising:

applying a crescent shaped strip of material, having a first end and a second end, to a person's body, wherein said applying comprises:

adhering said first end to a first portion of said person's body,

adhering said second end to a second portion of said person's body, and

causing swollen tissue of said person's body to be separated from non-swollen tissue of said person's body.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein:

said first portion of said person's body is a buttock;

said second portion of said person's body is a hip; and

said buttock and said hip are on the same side of said person's body.

30. (New) A method of claim 28 further comprising:

applying a second crescent shaped strip of material, having a third end and a fourth end, to said person's body, wherein said applying comprises:

adhering said third end to a third portion of said person's body; and

adhering said fourth end to a fourth portion of said person's body, and wherein:

said crescent shaped strip of material and said second crescent shaped strip of material work together to cause said swollen tissue to be separated from said non-swollen tissue.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, wherein:

said third portion of said person's body is a buttock;

said fourth portion of said person's body is a hip; and

said buttock and said hip are on the same side of said person's body.

32. (New) The method of claim 30 further comprising:

relieving the discomfort caused by hemorrhoids.